

# **Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary**

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Issued: 0800 CST

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**National Weather Service**

*Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX*



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**817-978-1100 x 147**

## Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Little change from last week with all of state at least in moderate drought.
- New Mexico** Conditions continue to deteriorate.
- Texas** Short-term dryness leads to deteriorating conditions with exceptional drought expanding across deep South Texas.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

March 19, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

### Oklahoma

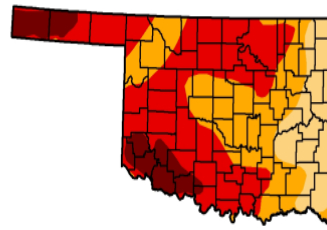
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	83.07	53.11	9.71
Last Week (03/12/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	83.16	56.70	9.71
3 Months Ago (12/18/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.92	93.27	34.56
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.09
One Year Ago (03/13/2012 map)	26.53	73.47	48.23	24.10	8.79	3.16

#### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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## Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico:** Statewide reservoir capacity at 20% of normal. Elephant Butte Lake storage at 11% capacity. Lowest ever for this time of year.
- Texas:** Will likely enter the summer of 2013 with far less stored water than in either 2011 or 2012, the two driest years since the drought of record in the 1950's.
- Rio Grande:** Many agricultural water districts, which normally provide conveyance for municipal water with their irrigation water, will no longer have water to distribute.
- Oklahoma:** 54% of OK winter wheat rated in poor or very poor condition per USDA. Canton Lake which has been providing water to central Oklahoma now only 15% full.

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### New Mexico

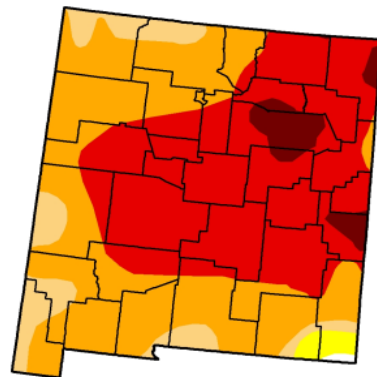
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.23	99.77	98.47	89.85	49.95	4.25
Last Week (03/12/2013 map)	0.21	99.79	98.49	89.85	49.93	4.25
3 Months Ago (12/18/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	92.35	23.73	0.97
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66
One Year Ago (03/13/2012 map)	11.31	88.69	81.79	60.06	24.94	9.13

#### Intensity:



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## U.S. Drought Monitor

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### Texas

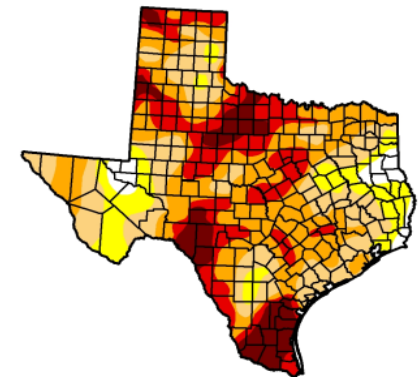
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3.64	96.36	85.02	59.53	28.30	9.88
Last Week (03/12/2013 map)	11.53	88.47	76.80	54.04	23.41	8.57
3 Months Ago (12/18/2012 map)	4.54	95.46	88.31	64.13	33.95	9.89
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (03/13/2012 map)	6.98	93.02	84.50	67.10	41.62	20.54

#### Intensity:



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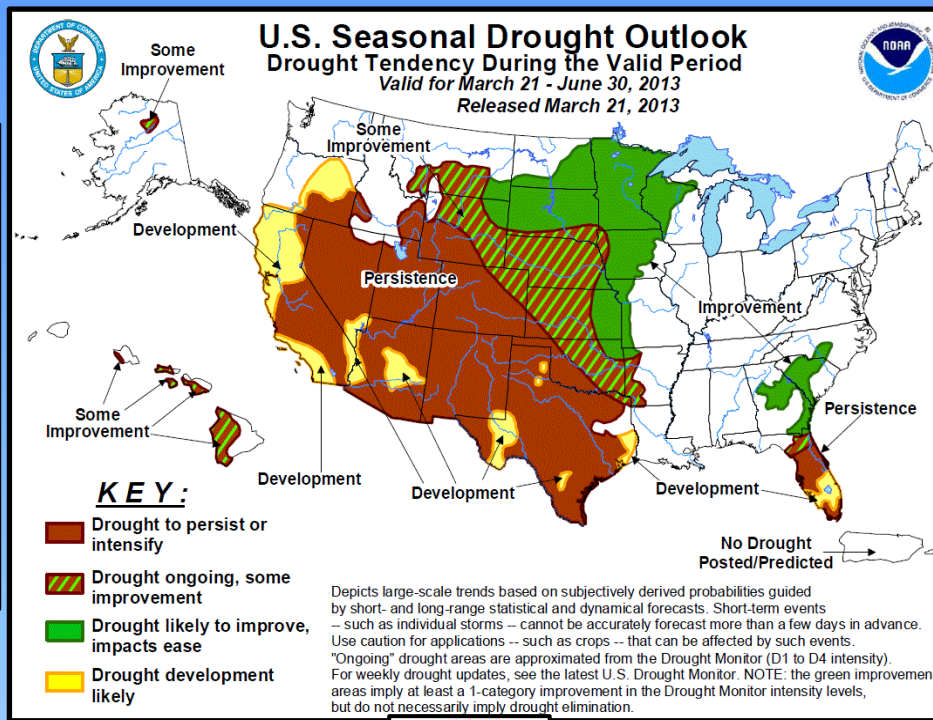
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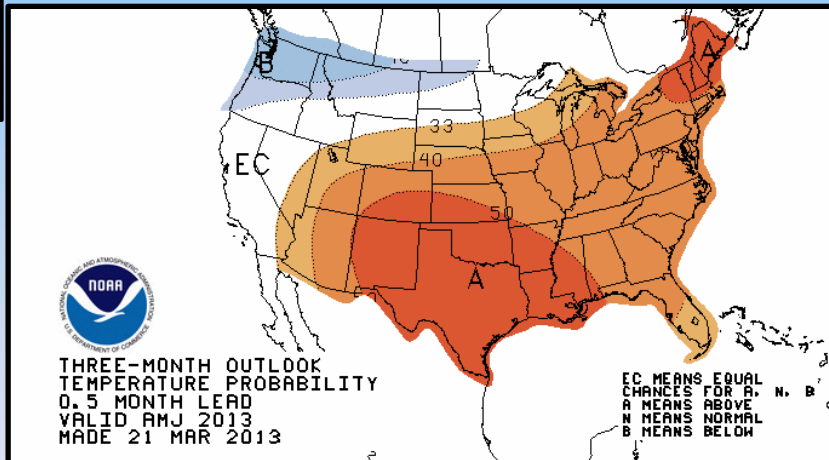
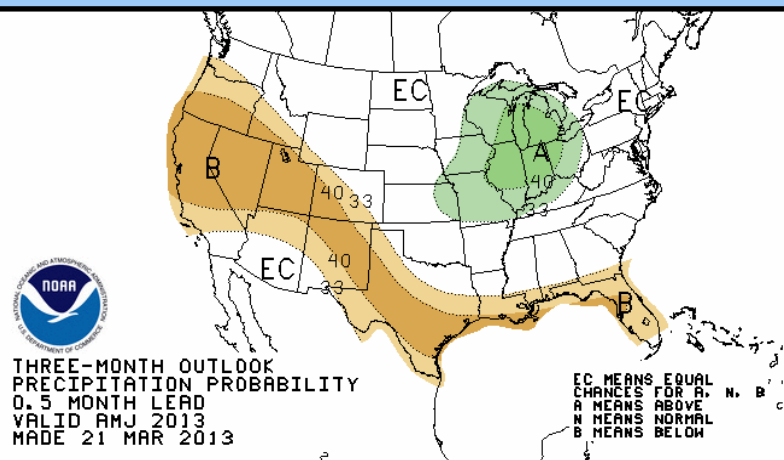
## 3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Below Normal Precipitation expected for the most of New Mexico and Texas April/May/June (AMJ).
- Highest Confidence for Below Normal Precipitation from northern New Mexico thru west Texas into southeast TX.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for Oklahoma and north Texas



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- High Confidence for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the Southern Plains during April/May/June (AMJ)
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir levels.



## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Slight improvement in drought conditions possible from north-central Oklahoma into southeast Oklahoma with the best chance for improvement over the northeast part of the state.
- Drought expected to persist through at least June across most of Texas and all of New Mexico.

Information provided by:



**National Weather Service**  
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**Regional Operations Center**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

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